

Message to the Congress Transmitting Documents Describing the  
Safeguard Action on Imports of Certain Steel Products  
March 5, 2002

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 203(b) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “Act”), I hereby transmit documents to the Congress that describe the safeguard action that I have proclaimed on imports of certain steel products, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 203(a)(1) of the

Act and as President of the United States, and the reasons for taking that action.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,  
March 5, 2002.

NOTE: The proclamation and memorandum of March 5 regarding imports of certain steel products are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks During a Meeting With Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr., and an  
Exchange With Reporters  
March 6, 2002

*The President.* I nominated a very good man from Mississippi named Charles Pickering to the appellate bench, and I expect him to be confirmed by the United States Senate. I think the country is tired of people playing politics all the time in Washington. And I believe that they’re holding this man’s nomination up for political purposes. It’s not fair, and it’s not right.

And a lot of people in Mississippi agree with me. Republicans agree with me, but so do a lot of good Democrats, starting with the attorney general of the State of Mississippi. He is here to lend his support for Charles Pickering. As well, the former Governor, Governor Winter, has expressed concern about a process that would malign a man such as him and expects him to be confirmed. Frank Hunger feels the same way. These are people in Mississippi who know the man for what he is, a man who respects the rights of all citizens and a man who not only respects the rights of all citizens, who has acted on that strong belief,

a man who’s a fine jurist, a man of quality and integrity.

And I hope the Senate stops playing politics. This is not good for the Senate, and it’s not good for the country. They’ve got to get him on the floor and get him a vote and get him in. He’ll do a fine job.

*Judge Pickering’s Nomination*

Q. Can we ask you a couple questions about his nomination, sir?

*The President.* Go ahead.

Q. Do you agree with your Press Secretary that if the judge’s writings and actions of 30—20, 30, 40 years ago should come into play, then so should the civil rights record of some of the very Senators of 30, 40 years ago? And is that a threat?

*The President.* Here’s what I believe: I believe this man should be confirmed. I know him. I’ve known him for a long time, but more importantly, people from Mississippi have known him. Democrats and Republicans know him. And he needs to

be confirmed, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. This is a good, good, honorable citizen, and they're playing politics with him up there.

Q. Did you support in 1950——

*The President.* Hold on——

Q. Mr. President, you describe this as playing politics. But many Democrats believe there are serious civil rights issues involved; among them that when he was a member of the State Senate, Mr. Pickering voted twice to support the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission, which was a segregationist spy agency recognized by the State.

*The President.* All the allegations have been laid out. He has been confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate in the past. This is a good, honorable man

who should be approved by the United States Senate. Otherwise we wouldn't have a Democrat attorney general, a very popular former Governor, Al Gore's brother-in-law, all of whom have stood up and said the man needs to be confirmed.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:52 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mike Moore, attorney general, and former Gov. William Winter of Mississippi; and Frank W. Hunger, former Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, and brother-in-law of former Vice President Albert Gore, Jr. Judge Pickering's nomination to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit was submitted May 25, 2001.

## Remarks to the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce March 6, 2002

Hector, thank you. One of the best decisions I made was, I asked you to come and be the SBA Director. And he's doing a fine job. One of the reasons I asked Hector is because he understands that the role of Government is not to create wealth but to create an environment in which entrepreneurs from all walks of life have a chance to succeed.

I'll never forget going to the Hispanic Chamber banquet in California, and I was given the information about the number of Latino-owned small businesses in the State of California. It was a staggering number, and I can remember telling friends of mine in Texas and other States what a magnificent statistic it is, to be able to read about the thousands of businesses started by Latinos, which means the American Dream is spreading her wings in every single neighborhood, which is precisely the vision I have for America. I want everybody who wants to start their own business to

feel comfortable in doing so and have an opportunity to succeed in America. And Hector understands that.

I want to thank you all to the *Casa Blanca tambien*. I want to thank Fidel Vargas for being here. He's on the Social Security Commission; I put two Latinos on the Social Security Commission. The Social Security Commission spent a lot of time analyzing the Social Security System and came back with a solid recommendation of allowing younger workers, if they so choose, to have their own money invested in a personal savings account.

Again, I can't think of anything better for the future of our country than for people to own a piece of the future of America. After all, it is not the Government's money we're talking about; it is the workers' money. And I want to thank the hard work of Fidel *y los otros* and the Commission of the Social Security.